

THE HISTORY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AT  
ST. GEORGE RURAL HIGH SCHOOL, ST. GEORGE, KANSAS

by

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## INTRODUCTION

St. George Rural High School is typical of the many small schools in the United States which have become the central point of the community, as the small towns faded into past history. Therefore, it has become increasingly necessary for the schools to make the adjustments required to fulfill the needs of the total population within the scope of the school program. This report is concerned primarily with the changes and advancements made in the school program during the forty-seven years of the school's existence. It is also the intention of the writer to provide a history of the school's athletic coaches and records as accurately as possible.

St. George is located eight miles east of Manhattan on old Highway 24. The high school was organized at a meeting of the voters of the district on August 1, 1919. A board was elected consisting of W. H. Soupene, Director; Joseph Schurr, Treasurer; and J. H. Clayton, Clerk.

The school opened as a four-year high school on September 8, 1919, with an enrollment of twenty-one, eleven boys and ten girls. Professor C. B. Cross was hired as principal and teacher. His salary was \$1900 for a twelve-month term. Mary L. O'Connell was hired on a nine-month basis at \$990 to teach home economics. During the first two years, 1919-20 and 1920-21, only a college preparatory curriculum was maintained. In the fall of 1921, vocational agriculture, vocational home economics, and commerce were added to the curriculum. The first graduate was Florence Bolte, 1921, who now lives in Manhattan, Kansas.

During its early years of operation, the high school board leased the basement and two rooms on the upper floor of the grade school building to be used for instruction. In 1923, the opera house downtown was leased for five years to be used as an agriculture shop and gymnasium. This proved to be very unsatisfactory, and it was not too long before agitation for a new high school building was started.

In the spring of 1928, with the approval of the grade school board of education, the high school board of education submitted plans for the construction of an agriculture shop and gymnasium to be added to the grade school building.

The patrons of the district supported the plan by voting to accept a \$20,000 bond issue to finance the construction. In December of the same year construction on the building was completed, and it was turned over to the high school board January 1, 1929.

From 1929 until 1951, basketball games were played in the room which is now identified as the high school library.

In 1951, the present gymnasium and shop facilities were added to the combined high school and grade school building. The present gymnasium has a seating capacity of 500, in contrast to the old gymnasium, which had no seating capacity. Spectators stood along the out-of-bounds line to watch the game.

In 1965, with state laws requiring unification to take effect, Westmoreland and St. George school district patrons voted to consolidate their school districts into one unified district. Effective July 1, 1966, St. George Rural High School will become



an attendance center in Unified School District 323. The future of the school appears to be on unstable ground due to the present small enrollment and lack of facilities. The town of St. George presents no hope of future growth; in fact, it is dwindling in population, so growth of school enrollment seems doubtful. However, no definite prediction can be made concerning the future status of the school in the coming years.

#### AIMS AND PURPOSES

The purpose of this study is to provide a record of athletics at St. George Rural High School, as no complete record exists, and many previous records have disappeared or been destroyed. It is hoped that the information found in this report will be of value to the present board, administration, faculty, and people of the community, all of whom have shown a genuine interest in the school.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Material for this study was obtained from a variety of sources. Much information was gathered from the school's year-books. Personal interviews were held with former and present coaches, former teachers, administrators, and board members. Interviews were also held with some of the past players of the various coaches. Material was also obtained from the now extinct St. George newspaper, on file at the Historical Museum at Topeka, Kansas, and the Manhattan Mercury.



## LEAGUES

St. George played Independent of any league until the fall of 1937. Until this period St. George had played many schools of the surrounding area, including: Fostoria, Oldsburg, Keats, Garrison, Paxico, Stockdale, Louisville, Westmoreland, Emmett, and Wamego. Their only affiliation with any type of organization was in the Pottawatomie County Basketball Tournament. This tournament involved all high schools in Pottawatomie County.

In 1937, the Pottawatomie County Five League was formed. Members of that league included the following:

1. Garrison
2. Emmett
3. Westmoreland
4. Havensville
5. St. George

In the fall of 1939 Onaga entered the league, and the addition changed the name of the league to the "Little Six." During 1941 Onaga dropped out of the "Little Six," and Oldsburg entered the league.

Eventually, the high schools at Garrison and Oldsburg closed their doors, and the league was dissolved in 1955.

During the school years of 1955-56 through 1956-57, St. George again played independent of a league. In the fall of 1957, the Kaw Valley League was formed. However, only basketball and track was played on a league basis. At the end of one year the league was dissolved. This was due to other schools wishing membership in leagues which provided interschool

competition in the three major sports. Membership in the league consisted of the following schools:

1. Silver Lake
2. St. Marys
3. Rossville
4. St. Xavier of Junction City
5. St. George

St. George, at the time of writing, has been a member of the Mid East League since it was formed in the school year 1962-63. Since its formation, the only change in the membership of the league has been the addition of Onaga in 1964-65. Member schools in the Mid East League include the following:

1. Alma
2. Alta Vista
3. Eskridge
4. St. Marys
5. Silver Lake
6. Rossville
7. Onaga
8. St. George

#### FINANCING

Athletics at St. George High School have been supported through collection of gate receipts and budget appropriations through most of the school's history. An exception was in the early history of the school when gate receipts, bake sales, and carnivals provided the major share of the financial burden of

athletics.

Gate receipts in recent years have totalled approximately \$1,000 per year. However, all money received from athletic events were not placed in a separate athletic fund. Requests for athletic equipment were submitted to the board of education, and if it appeared that the equipment was necessary, then appropriations from the school budget and activity fund were used to purchase the needed supplies. Too often the requests were not considered necessary by the school board. This is shown by the fact that the "B" team in basketball played the 1965-66 season in uniforms sixteen years old.

No practice gear is furnished the boys by the school's athletic department, other than practice suits for football. The boys have furnished all shoes, shorts, socks, and mouth pieces.

At present writing, plans are being made for a separate athletic fund to begin operation for the 1966-67 school year. This should prove very beneficial in building up the athletic program at the school.

#### FOOTBALL

E. W. Winkler (1921-22 through 1922-23)

Mr. Winkler was one of the first new teachers to be hired at St. George, other than the principal, C. B. Cross. He was hired as an agricultural instructor at \$2400. Because of his great enthusiasm for the game of football, Mr. Winkler organized, in the fall of 1921, the first football team at St. George in the

school's short history. He scheduled two games with the Wamego "B" team and met defeat both times.

In the school year of 1922-23, Mr. Winkler opened the football season with fourteen boys reporting for practice. His teams played an eight-game schedule, recording two wins and six losses. The two victories were achieved by defeating Maple Hill by a score of eighteen to six and Onaga, nineteen to six.

Mr. Winkler compiled an overall record of two wins and eight defeats in his two years as head coach.

#### C. I. Woolard (1923-24 through 1925-26)

Mr. Woolard took over reign of the football position with very little enthusiasm and support from the community and students. He found it rather difficult to acquire the proper playing equipment. Some problems were also encountered in scheduling during his last two years as head coach.

In his three years as head football coach, Mr. Woolard had a coaching record of five wins and seventeen losses.

Due to a lack of community interest and of financial backing by the school board, football was dropped in favor of girls' basketball after 1926. It was not reinstated as a school sport until the year 1954.

#### Don Thomas (1954-55 through 1956-57)

Mr. Thomas was a graduate of Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas, in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He had already

coached three years at St. George as head basketball coach.

Don spent the next three years coaching six man football, after a long absence of football at St. George. The year 1956 marked the first home night game played at St. George, with St. George defeating Havensville 25 to 20.

Mr. Thomas's team compiled a record of nine wins and sixteen losses. More important than his record, though, was the admiration of the players, staff, and community for a job well done at St. George High School.

#### Clayton Gerboth (1957-58 through 1958-59)

Mr. Gerboth graduated from Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, in 1933 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. While at St. George, Mr. Gerboth taught shop, economics, and American government.

Although Mr. Gerboth did not enjoy winning seasons, he had the respect of the players and parents. His teams registered three wins and ten defeats.

#### Marvin Decker (1959-60)

Mr. Decker graduated from Omaha University, Omaha, Nebraska, in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science degree. During his one year stay at St. George, he taught shop, first aid, and health.

Throughout the season, the team suffered disheartening losses to: White City (52 to 6), Blue Valley (74 to 26), and Wakefield (78 to 6).

The team compiled a record of one win and seven losses.

Gaylord Bellamy (1960-61)

Mr. Bellamy was a 1960 graduate of Wichita University, Wichita, Kansas. At St. George, Mr. Bellamy was the shop teacher and drivers training instructor.

He guided his team to a record of one win, six losses, and one tie. The one victory was by a score of 14 to 13 over Maple Hill. The team tied Delta 19 to 19 in the homecoming game.

Robert T. Smith (1961-62)

Mr. Smith, a graduate of Oklahoma State, coached the last year in which eight man football was played at St. George. In addition to his coaching duties, Mr. Smith also taught biology, world geography, and American history.

While at St. George, his football team won one and lost seven. His team defeated Emmett at St. George 46 to 20.

Frank Warren (1962-63 through 1963-64)

Mr. Warren came to St. George from Sharon Springs Rural High School where he was head coach in all sports. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas. During his stay at St. George he was head football and track coach. He was also in charge of junior high athletics and coached all grade school athletics.

During his coaching career at St. George, his football teams compiled a record of two wins, thirteen losses, and two ties. Mr. Warren also initiated the eleven man football program at St. George.

He is now coaching all grade school athletics at Wamego Grade School, Wamego, Kansas.

Jim Weixelman (1964-65)

Mr. Weixelman graduated from Wamego High School, Wamego, Kansas. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy, After completing his tour of duty, he enrolled at Kansas State University and received his degree in 1964.

While at St. George, his football team won one and lost eight. Mr. Weixelman, at the time of this report, is head basketball coach and assistant in football and track at Centralia Rural High School, Centralia, Kansas.

Larry Wilkerson (1965-66)

Mr. Wilkerson graduated from Wurzburg American High School, Wurzburg, Germany, in 1955. He enrolled at Kansas State College in 1956. After graduating in 1962, he accepted his first coaching assignment at Longford Rural High School, as head football and track coach. During his coaching reign at Longford, his football team compiled a record of eight wins, twelve losses, and two ties. He coached basketball his last two years at Longford, and his teams compiled a record of twenty-one wins and twenty losses. One highlight of the 1965 season was the representation of his team in the Regional Tournament, a record never before achieved at Longford. This record at Longford was probably one of the influencing factors in his being offered the position at St. George.



Mr. Wilkerson, in his first year as head football coach at St. George, placed sixth in the Mid East League. His team compiled a record of three wins and six losses. Mr. Wilkerson received a salary of \$4500, with an additional \$900 earned by driving a school bus.

Table I shows the over-all won and lost record of St. George High School football teams.

TABLE I  
SUMMARY OF FOOTBALL SEASON RECORDS

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Tied</u>
E. W. Winkler	1921-22	0	2	--
E. W. Winkler	1922-23	2	6	--
C. I. Woolard	1923-24	2	7	--
C. I. Woolard	1924-25	2	4	--
C. I. Woolard	1925-26	1	6	--
No Football	1926-27 through 1953-54			
Don Thomas	1954-55	3	5	--
Don Thomas	1955-56	2	7	--
Don Thomas	1956-57	4	4	--
Clayton Gerboth	1957-58	1	5	--
Clayton Gerboth	1958-59	2	5	--
Marvin Decker	1959-60	1	6	--
Gaylord Bellamy	1960-61	1	6	1
Robert T. Smith	1961-62	1	7	--
Frank Warren	1962-63	2	6	1
Frank Warren	1963-64	0	7	1
Jim Weixelman	1964-65	1	8	--
Larry Wilkerson	1965-66	3	6	--
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Totals		28	97	3

As can be noted in Table 1, the ten football coaches in the sixteen years of interscholastic competition at St. George High School have compiled a record of twenty-eight wins, ninety-seven losses, and three ties, for a winning record of twenty-two per cent of the total number of games played.

There was only one year that the football teams played five-hundred ball, that being in the school year 1956-57, under the guidance of Mr. Thomas. His team won four and lost four.

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Wilbur Pfenninger (1921-22 through 1922-23)

Mr. Pfenninger, a graduate of Fort Hays State College, Hays, Kansas, came to St. George High School as a mathematics teacher. His salary was \$1920. At St. George he became involved in basketball as an extra class activity. He managed to schedule games with neighboring schools--Westmoreland, Wamego, Stockdale, and Louisville--and assumed the head coaching position. In his first year at St. George, the games were either played away from St. George or on an outdoor playground. In 1923, the school board leased the opera house downtown for use as a basketball court.

Mr. Pfenninger's teams, in learning the fundamentals of the game, were still able to build a respectable record of seven wins and eleven losses. One of the highlights of his first year of coaching was a 24-21 win over Manhattan High School. Some of the players who made especially notable contributions to the team were: Louis G. Kent, Wesley Lamb, Roy Hodges, Ralph Harrell, Ben Hodges, and the captain of the team, Peter Klein.

C. I. Woolard (1923-24 through 1925-26)

The teams under Mr. Woolard continued to play their games in the opera house although there was standing room only, as few seats were provided for the spectators.

During Mr. Woolard's stint of coaching, the team continued to improve and compiled a record of twenty-seven wins and sixteen losses. In the school year 1925-26, the team placed fourth in the Pottawatomie County Tournament. They failed to get to the district, as a number of the team players were incapacitated by the flu.

A player by the name of Kenneth Bolte set an individual scoring record of 181 points.

Roy R. Cameron (1926-27 through 1928-29)

Mr. Cameron came to St. George High School as the principal and assumed the head coaching position. He opened the 1926-27 campaign with two returning lettermen, one of the boys being Kenneth Bolte. Bolte set a single game scoring record of thirty points. However, they finished with a losing season, winning six and losing nine games.

In his last two seasons at St. George, Cameron's team still remained in the losing side of the column as his teams lost seven games by a total of eight points. However, in the 1927-28 season, Bolte averaged nineteen points a game.

Mr. Cameron's teams compiled a record of thirteen wins and thirty-one losses.

Carl J. Langely (1929-30 through 1930-31)

Mr. Langely followed in the footsteps of Mr. Cameron as principal of the high school and head basketball coach. He received his B. S. degree from Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, and came to St. George from Scottsville.

His teams at St. George compiled an over-all record of thirteen wins and sixteen losses.

A. V. Grady (1931-32 through 1932-33)

Mr. Grady assumed the coaching duties in addition to being the principal of the high school. During his two years at St. George, the team's record was not one that would leave a striking impression in one's memory.

His teams posted a record of five wins and twenty-six losses. His leading scorer in the 1932-33 season, a player by the name of Hauldren, tallied only fifty-eight points.

J. C. Weisant (1933-34 through 1936-37)

Mr. Weisant came to St. George after making the rounds of various schools in the area. He had previously taught school at Fostoria, Blaine, Emmett, and Oldsburg. Mr. Weisant received a Master of Science degree from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, in 1926.

In addition to his coaching duties, Mr. Weisant was also the principal and a classroom teacher. During his stay at St. George he taught commercial law, bookkeeping, and economics.

Basketball teams under Mr. Weisant won twenty-two and lost thirty-two games in his four years at the school. His last two years were filled with despair when it came time for the tournaments. In 1936, the team was beset with the scarlet fever. The following year measles led to his team's downfall.

#### Curtis Sides (1937-38 through 1938-39)

Mr. Sides served in a dual capacity, being the principal and coach. The 1937-38 season looked promising to Mr. Sides, as he had five returning lettermen. However, the team failed to win the close ones and completed the season with two wins and fourteen losses.

In 1938-39, with eight returning lettermen, Mr. Sides recorded one of the finest years in the school's history. His team compiled a record of fifteen wins and four losses. They placed second in the Little Six, first in their district tournament, and went to the regionals. In the regional tournament, they won their first game, defeating Harveyville 34 to 32, but were defeated in the second game by Eskridge 41 to 31. Frank and Bob O'Neill were the leading scorers of the season, scoring 201 and 190 points, respectively.

At the time of this writing, Mr. Sides is the principal at Altamont High School, Altamont, Kansas.

#### Sam Huebner (1939-40 through 1942-43)

Mr. Huebner's teams brought more recognition than any other team in the school's history. Under his guidance, the over-all

won-lost record was the best of any coach at St. George up to his time. His teams recorded forty-eight wins and twenty-four defeats. His team of 1941 won twenty games and lost eight. They finished in second place in the Little Six and took home a second place trophy from the Pottawatomie County Tournament. After finishing second in the district tournament, losing to Leonardville 26 to 36 in the finals, they went on to the regional tournament at Clay Center.

The final game of the regionals proved to be especially disappointing because of an unusual circumstance. A St. George player had just rebounded the ball from the opponents' backboard, with the score standing Leonardville 37, St. George 36, when the horn sounded, ending the contest. The player tossed the ball to the referee, and the teams started to leave the floor. The time keeper suddenly announced over the speaker system that an error had been made--that three seconds remained in the ball game. To the dismay of the St. George team and fans, the referee awarded the ball to Leonardville.

Mr. Huebner went to Glen Elder High School, Glen Elder, Kansas, from St. George. During his first year at Glen Elder, Mr. Huebner and his entire family perished in a car accident.

#### J. W. Honeywell (1943-44)

Mr. Honeywell came to St. George as a principal and coach. He received his Master of Science degree from Kansas State College in 1925.



Several members of Mr. Honeywell's team have expressed the feeling that, to him, basketball was just a loss of time, and that he did not take his responsibility as coach very seriously. Because of this attitude about the sport, apparently, the boys received very little coaching during the school year.

His team compiled a record of four wins and thirteen losses.

Kenneth O. Esping (1944-45 through 1947-48)

Mr. Esping received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Bethany College. He earned his Master of Science degree from Kansas State College.

One of the highlights of his four years of coaching at St. George came in the 1945-46 school year. He began the season with six returning lettermen. His team placed fourth in the county tournament, winning their first game from Oldsburg by a score of 45 to 26. However, they dropped the next two games to Westmoreland and St. Marys.

In district tournament play, the team easily defeated Fostoria 64 to 9. In their second game, they gained revenge from an earlier loss and emerged victorious over Westmoreland by a score of 32 to 30. The game for first place was won by Onaga by a score of 45 to 34, thus giving St. George a second place finish.

St. George entered regional tournament play for the third time in the school's history, meeting Silver Lake in their first game. Silver Lake defeated St. George by a score of 32 to 28.

Jim Robison, the basketball coach at the time of this writing, was elected one of the co-captains for the 1945-46 season.

Under Mr. Esping's direction, his teams compiled an over-all record of thirty-eight wins and forty losses.

Lee Scott (1948-49 through 1950-51)

Mr. Scott's teams probably were about as well drilled and disciplined as any team in the history of St. George High School. Mr. Scott had accumulated twenty years of previous experience before becoming principal and head basketball coach.

He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State College in 1921. Upon graduation, he accepted a position at Garrison Rural High School and during his reign there had a boys team advance to the state tournament. It might also be mentioned he took a girl's team to the state tournament while at Garrison.

During his coaching career at St. George, his teams compiled an over-all record of fifty-four wins and eighteen losses. In 1948-49, his team posted a record of twelve wins and eight losses, placing second in league play.

For the fourth time in the school's history, St. George advanced to regional tournament play in the 1950-51 season. After winning the league title for the first time, the team continued on to district tournament play and brought home a second place trophy. The regional tournament was held in Junction City. After winning the first two games, St. George lost the championship game to Miltonvale High School, going down to defeat by a margin of two points. Mr. Scott's team finished the season with a record of nineteen wins and five defeats.

### Don Thomas (1951-52 through 1956-57)

Don Thomas earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State College in the spring of 1951. He accepted his first coaching assignment at St. George High School. Although his teams suffered through some lean years, the boys were well disciplined and dedicated ball players. His teams had an over-all record of thirty-eight wins and sixty-three losses.

His best team was produced during the 1951-52 season when the boys placed second in the Little Six League and also finished second in the district tournament. The 1955-56 team won a second place trophy at the district tournament.

### Ben Buette (1957-58)

Mr. Buette came to St. George as a 1957 graduate of Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, with a Bachelor of Science degree. In addition to his coaching duties, Mr. Buette also taught mathematics, chemistry, general science, and geometry.

He completed his first season of coaching with no wins and fourteen losses.

### Jack Edwards (1958-59)

Mr. Edwards was a graduate of Wichita University in 1954. In 1958 he received his Master of Science degree from Kansas State University. During his stay at St. George, Mr. Edwards was the mathematics and drivers training teacher, in addition to his coaching duties.

His team compiled a record of seven wins and eleven losses, finishing third in the Pottawatomie County Tournament.

Bernie Johnson (1959-60)

Mr. Johnson graduated from Fort Hays State College, Hays, Kansas, in 1959. He was employed primarily as a social science instructor, but also assumed the duties of basketball coach. His team for the season compiled a record of only one win and thirteen losses. The boys worked diligently, as half of their losses came by a score of six points or less. His team did win a third place trophy at the county tournament.

Gaylord Bellamy (1960-61)

Gaylord Bellamy came to St. George High School in the fall of 1960. His team placed third in the county tournament, defeating Emmett 52 to 50 in the first game of the tournament and defeating Flush 50 to 42 in the consolation game. Wheaton had previously defeated St. George in the second round 54 to 30. The team completed the season with a record of five wins and fifteen losses.

Jim Robison (1961-62 through 1965-66)

Mr. Robison graduated from St. George Rural High School, St. George, Kansas, in 1948. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army and served a tour of duty in Korea. After discharge, he enrolled at Kansas State College, receiving his degree in January, 1959. He accepted his first coaching assignment as head coach in the St. George Grade School. After

continuous success in the grade school program, he was advanced to head basketball coach in the high school. His salary was \$5100 for the 1965-66 school year, with an additional \$900 being earned by driving a school bus route.

Mr. Robison's teams at St. George High School have compiled a record of twenty-eight wins and sixty-eight losses. The 1961-62 team was probably one of the best in St. George history; they compiled a record of fifteen wins and seven losses, placing third in the county tournament and fourth in the district tournament. The 1964-65 team won a third place trophy at the district tournament. A contributing factor in the won-lost record during his tenure was the antagonism between parents, in turn, producing team friction, causing some parents to transfer their boys to other schools.

A summary of games won and lost in basketball are shown in Table II.

TABLE II  
SUMMARY OF BASKETBALL SEASON RECORDS

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>
Wilbur Pfenninger	1921-22	3	4
Wilbur Pfenninger	1922-23	4	7
C. I. Woolard	1923-24	10	4
C. I. Woolard	1924-25	6	6
C. I. Woolard	1925-26	11	6
Roy Cameron	1926-27	6	9
Roy Cameron	1927-28	5	10
Roy Cameron	1928-29	2	12
Carl Langely	1929-30	8	7
Carl Langely	1930-31	8	7
A. V. Grady	1931-32	2	15
A. V. Grady	1932-33	3	11
J. C. Welsant	1933-34	8	8
J. C. Welsant	1934-35	7	4
J. C. Welsant	1935-36	4	9
J. C. Welsant	1936-37	8	9
Curtis Sides	1937-38	2	14
Curtis Sides	1938-39	15	4
Sam Huebner	1939-40	9	6
Sam Huebner	1940-41	20	8
Sam Huebner	1941-42	11	3
Sam Huebner	1942-43	8	7
J. W. Honeywell	1943-44	4	13

Table II (continued)

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>
K. O. Esping	1944-45	6	11
K. O. Esping	1945-46	10	11
K. O. Esping	1946-47	7	10
K. O. Esping	1947-48	15	8
Lee Scott	1948-49	12	8
Lee Scott	1949-50	23	5
Lee Scott	1950-51	19	5
Don Thomas	1951-52	16	7
Don Thomas	1952-53	7	13
Don Thomas	1953-54	2	10
Don Thomas	1954-55	3	12
Don Thomas	1955-56	5	8
Don Thomas	1956-57	5	13
Ben Buette	1957-58	0	14
Jack Edwards	1958-59	7	11
Bernie Johnson	1959-60	1	11
Gaylord Bellamy	1960-61	5	15
Jim Robison	1961-62	15	7
Jim Robison	1962-63	2	16
Jim Robison	1963-64	2	16
Jim Robison	1964-65	8	16
Jim Robison	1965-66	1	17
<hr/> Totals	<hr/>	<hr/> 332	<hr/> 423



St. George High School has had seventeen coaches in forty-five years of interschool competition. Their combined record is 332 wins and 423 losses, winning forty-three per cent of the total number of games played.

During the forty-five years that basketball has been played at St. George High School 192, or over fifty-seven per cent, of the winning games came in twelve years, which is less than one-third of the time that boys basketball has been played.

The most successful coaches were Mr. Sam Huebner, with a record of forty-eight wins and twenty-four losses, and Mr. Lee Scott, whose teams compiled a record of fifty-four wins and eighteen losses.

The longest reign of any of the coaches was Mr. Don Thomas, who coached at St. George from 1951-52 through 1956-57. His teams compiled a record of thirty-eight wins and sixty-three losses.

Winning teams were produced the following years: 1924, 1926, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1946, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, and 1962.

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Miss Bly Ewalt (1921-22 through 1922-23)

Miss Ewalt was hired as home economics teacher at \$1660 for ten months service. When it was decided to add girls basketball to the extra curricular activities, Miss Ewalt volunteered to serve as coach.

Although she was unable to come up with winning teams, the girls gained valuable experience and enjoyed the game. Her teams

compiled a record of two wins and twelve losses.

C. I. Woolard (1923-24 through 1925-26)

Very little could be found regarding Mr. Woolard's duties as a teacher or coach. However, it should be noted that his teams did not enjoy any profound success during his term as coach, winning only one game and losing thirty.

Dorothy Girton (1926-27 through 1928-29)

Under Miss Girton's coaching, the girls teams continued to follow the same unimpressive route to failure. In her first season of coaching, the girls lost games by scores of 110 to 4 and 67 to 2 before winning one game by a score of 6 to 3.

In her three years as head coach, Miss Girton had a coaching record of six wins and thirty-four losses.

Carl J. Langely (1929-30 through 1930-31)

Basketball teams under Mr. Langely showed marked improvement over the previous years' records. His girls teams compiled an over-all record of nine wins, sixteen losses and one tie.

At the close of the 1929-30 season, a girl by the name of Pratt had established a new record in the number of points scored, with a seasonal total of 168 points. She also established a single game high of 43 points in a game against Louisville.

A. V. Grady (1931-32 through 1932-33)

Mr. Grady continued to guide the girls along a path of steady improvement as his teams recorded a combined record of

nine wins, fourteen losses, and one tie.

A girl by the name of Grunewaide threatened to break the record of most points scored in a single season in 1931-32, but fell four points short of the record set by Pratt.

J. C. Welsant (1933-34 through 1936-37)

Mr. Welsant's coaching began to show results, as his teams enjoyed winning seasons during his four years of guidance. Teams under Mr. Welsant won thirty-four, lost seventeen, and tied five. The girls placed second in the Pottawatomie County Tournament in 1936. In 1936 and 1937, his teams won the Paxico Invitational Tournament.

Curtis Sides (1937-38 through 1938-39)

Girls teams under the guidance of Mr. Sides were not as prosperous as previous years. His 1937-38 teams returned only one letterman; so, with the lack of experience, their record dropped to three wins and nine losses. His over-all record was ten wins, twelve losses, and one tie.

Sam Huebner (1939-40 through 1942-43)

Mr. Huebner coached the girls for four years without any significant results. Maybe too much emphasis was placed on boys basketball after his sensational success and outstanding record.

Teams under Mr. Huebner compiled a record of twenty wins, twenty-seven losses, and two ties.

J. W. Honeywell (1943-44)

Six lettermen reported to Mr. Honeywell for basketball in the fall of 1943. This, more than anything else probably helped carry the team to a record of eight wins, five losses, and one tie.

Mr. Honeywell, at the time of this writing, is a realtor, living in Manhattan, Kansas.

Dorothy Bryan (1944-45 through 1947-48)

Mrs. Bryan volunteered as girls basketball coach when she began her teaching duties in the fall of 1944. Her teams over the four-year period recorded fifteen wins, eighteen losses, and three ties.

Lee Scott (1948-49 through 1950-51)

Mr. Scott, along with being principal, classroom teacher, and boys basketball coach, assumed the position as head coach of the girls. He possessed such a tremendous love of the sport that he would not deny the girls a chance to play the game. He became so involved in the game that, at the end of his third year, he had to quit coaching and remain behind the scenes as principal only.

Mr. Scott's teams compiled a record of nineteen wins and seventeen losses. His teams won the Little Six League title in 1950 and 1951.

At the time of this writing, Mr. Scott is residing in Wamego, Kansas. He is in the construction business with his son.

Don Thomas (1951-52 through 1954-55)

Mr. Thomas's teams possessed such tremendous potential that he probably could have thrown out a ball and let them go. During the 1953 and 1954 seasons his teams went undefeated, winning twenty straight games. Also, in this same period of time, they won the Little Six League title in 1953 and 1954. In 1952 they placed second. The records produced by his teams were certainly among the best in the history of the sport at St. George High School.

Probably no other sport in the school's history had gained the interest of the community more than girls basketball. It was with great regret that the sport was discontinued.

A summary of the seasons records in girls basketball is shown on Table III.

TABLE III  
SUMMARY OF GIRLS BASKETBALL SEASON RECORDS

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Tied</u>
Bly Ewalt	1921-22	0	5	--
Bly Ewalt	1922-23	2	7	--
C. I. Woolard	1923-24	1	11	--
C. I. Woolard	1924-25	0	10	--
C. I. Woolard	1925-26	0	9	--
Dorothy Girton	1926-27	1	10	--
Dorothy Girton	1927-28	2	12	--
Dorothy Girton	1928-29	3	12	--
Carl J. Langely	1929-30	5	8	--
Carl J. Langely	1930-31	4	8	1
A. V. Grady	1931-32	6	8	--
A. V. Grady	1932-33	3	6	1
J. C. Weisant	1933-34	7	7	--
J. C. Weisant	1934-35	3	5	2
J. C. Weisant	1935-36	13	1	1
J. C. Weisant	1936-37	11	4	2
Curtis Sides	1937-38	3	9	--
Curtis Sides	1938-39	7	3	1
Sam Huebner	1939-40	3	6	2
Sam Huebner	1940-41	1	10	--
Sam Huebner	1941-42	8	7	--
Sam Huebner	1942-43	9	4	--

Table III (continued)

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Tied</u>
J. W. Honeywell	1943-44	8	5	1
Dorothy Bryan	1944-45	6	5	2
Dorothy Bryan	1945-46	2	3	1
Dorothy Bryan	1946-47	4	4	--
Dorothy Bryan	1947-48	3	6	2
Lee Scott	1948-49	2	10	--
Lee Scott	1949-50	8	4	--
Lee Scott	1950-51	9	3	--
Don Thomas	1951-52	9	3	--
Don Thomas	1952-53	13	0	--
Don Thomas	1953-54	7	0	--
Don Thomas	1954-55	5	2	--
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals		166	209	16

Girls basketball was part of the extra class activities from 1921-22 through 1954-55. During that time there were twelve coaches, three of which were women. Their combined record was 166 wins, 209 losses, and 16 ties, winning forty-four per cent of all games played.

During the thirty-three years the girls competed on an inter-school basis, they completed thirteen seasons with winning records totalling 113 wins.

The most successful coaches were Mr. J. C. Welsant, with a record of thirty-four wins, seventeen losses, and five ties; Mr. Lee Scott, whose teams won nineteen and lost seventeen; and Mr.



Don Thomas, whose teams won thirty-four and lost five. Mr. Thomas's teams completed two undefeated seasons winning twenty straight games.

#### TRACK

##### Frank Warren (1962-63 through 1964-65)

Until recently, track was treated as busy work during the spring months of the school's history. The track team usually competed in the county track meet, and that was the extent of track competition between schools until Frank Warren became head track coach at St. George in the school year 1962-63.

Starting in the junior high grades, Mr. Warren began to develop boys with the ability and desire to excel in the sport. He developed the boys to such a point that he had several entries in the State Junior Olympics at Lawrence, Kansas, the same year. His hard work and enthusiasm for the sport caught on with many of the boys in high school, and he was able to develop a respectable track team to represent St. George High.

Mr. Warren's team did not set any outstanding records, but his dedication to the sport and the boys are still recognized as a job well done. The ones whom he developed in grade school are now coming into their own as high school track men.

##### Jim Weixelman (1964-65)

Mr. Weixelman picked up where Frank Warren left off in the track program. The sophomores and freshmen were beginning to show their ability at the sport. They won the Mid East League

Freshman-Sophomore Meet by a large margin, defeating Alma, the second place team, by twenty-one points.

In the Mid East League Track Meet the boys tried hard, but their lack of forces put them in a sixth place finish. Track practice was hampered somewhat by the boys' dividing their attention between baseball and track. Otherwise, Mr. Weixelman certainly would have made tremendous strides in the track program at St. George.

#### Larry Wilkerson (1965-66)

Interest in track was developed rapidly as baseball was discontinued as a spring sport. Mr. Wilkerson opened the season with twenty-two boys out for the sport. No permanent track exists at the school; however, a 220-yard track was marked off, and this substituted for a regulation 440 oval.

Although Mr. Wilkerson's boys did not win any meets, they did gain valuable experience. One boy by the name of Tommy Wilson represented St. George High School in the State Track Meet for the first time in the school's history. He placed second in the 100 and 220 yard dash, and fourth in the 440 yard dash.

As Mr. Wilkerson was able to convince the school board that uniforms were needed in the participation of the sport, new track uniforms were purchased to outfit the boys, for the first time in the school's long history.

Table IV shows the existing track records at St. George High School.

TABLE IV  
SUMMARY OF TRACK RECORDS

<u>Event</u>	<u>Time or Distance</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Athlete</u>	<u>Meet</u>
120 Yd. H.H.	NO RECORD			
100 Yd. Dash	10.2	1966	Tom Wilson	State Regional Meet at Ottawa
Mile Run	5:09.8	1935	Ivan Bammes	Pottawatomie County Track Meet
880 Relay	1:38.5	1965	Tom Wilson Ken Darting Jim Piper Mike Davies	Mid East League Meet
440 Yd. Dash	52.3	1966	Tom Wilson	State Track Meet
180 Yd. L.H.	26.0	1948	Jim Robison	Pottawatomie County Meet
Medley Relay	3:58.7	1965	Marvin Zentz Tom Wilson Mike Davies Louis Allen	Mid East League Meet
220 Yd. Dash	22.3	1966	Tom Wilson	Maple Hill Invitational
Mile Relay	NO RECORD			
Shot Put	39'3"	1940	Steve Woodruff	Pottawatomie County Meet
Discus	107'11"	1966	Dan Nuenswander	Mid East League Meet
Javelin	155'5"	1966	Paul Martin	Dual Meet with Silver Lake
Pole Vault	11'	1941	Jim Wilson	Pottawatomie County Meet
High Jump	5'4"	1964	Dan Pugh	Pottawatomie County Meet
Broad Jump	18'7"	1965	Jim Piper	Perry Relays

Until recent years, track was treated as busy work during the spring months. The boys did not receive any coaching instruction, as the coach was usually the principal of the school, and his major concern in the athletic program was the game of basketball.

In most instances, the track records at St. George High School do not compare favorably with existing state records. However, the track records in the 100, 220, and 440 dashes are reasonably close to state marks.

#### WRESTLING

Charles Chapman (1961-62)

Mr. Chapman initiated wrestling at St. George for the major purpose of providing another sport for those boys who were not able to make the basketball team.

During his one year at St. George he developed one top-notch wrestler, John Osbourn; but when he left, the sport was dropped and has not been reactivated.

Mr. Chapman was able to schedule three meets and came out victorious in two of them. In their first match they were defeated by Riley County eight to twenty-one. Playing a return match, they defeated Riley County sixteen to ten. In their final contest of the season they defeated St. Marys.

In addition to his coaching duties, Mr. Chapman taught first aid, physiology, Shop I and II, and drivers training.

## SOFTBALL

In between the years when football was played at St. George, softball was played in the fall to provide some type of inter-scholastic competition. Since the school was not a member of a league for a number of years, games were scheduled intermittently. Records and scores of the games were not kept because of the nature of these games.

## BASEBALL

Don Thomas (1951-52 through 1956-57)

Baseball was another filler sport played at St. George for a number of years for which there are few records available. Games were scheduled, weather permitting, and there were no league championships at stake. The game itself was probably more of a means of keeping contact with other schools. However, it would appear to the author that social development was an important factor, also.

Mr. Thomas, coach in all the athletics at St. George at this time, was able to lead his teams to a record of sixteen wins and twenty-four losses.

Ben Buette (1957-58)

Mr. Buette's team played a seven-game schedule and had a victorious season, winning five games and losing two.

Jack Edwards (1958-59)

Mr. Edward's team, playing games when they could be scheduled, as no league existed and distances to other schools playing the game had increased, recorded three wins and four losses.

Marvin Decker (1959-60)

Mr. Decker certainly must have experienced one of the most frustrating seasons of all time. Bad weather interfered so often that, by the end of the season, his team had played only one game and lost it.

Jim Robison (1960-61)

Mr. Robison took over the coaching duties in the spring of 1961. He had coached the team for five years when, in the spring of 1966, it was decided to forego the sport; fewer teams were playing the game, and travel distance was so great for the games that could be scheduled. Also, the team never actually had uniforms, and the cost for equipping the team was considered to be too expensive for the short length of the playing season.

In five years, Mr. Robison guided his teams to an over-all record of twenty-two wins and thirteen losses. His 1962 team placed second in the district tournament. In 1964 and 1965 his teams were eliminated from state competition in the second game of the Circleville Elimination Tournament. However, Mr. Robison's team won the St. George Invitational in 1964.

TABLE V  
SUMMARY OF BASEBALL SEASON RECORDS

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>
No assigned coach	1921-22 through 1950-51		No records
Don Thomas	1951-52 through 1954-55		No records
Don Thomas	1955-56	4	4
Don Thomas	1956-57	2	6
Ben Buette	1957-58	5	2
Jack Edwards	1958-59	3	4
Marvin Decker	1959-60	0	1
Jim Robison	1960-61	3	3
Jim Robison	1961-62	6	1
Jim Robison	1962-63	3	4
Jim Robison	1963-64	4	3
Jim Robison	1964-65	6	3
<hr/> Totals	<hr/>	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 31

From 1922 through 1954, baseball was played merely for enjoyment, lacking the keen competitive spirit of later years. In 1955 Don Thomas was appointed to head the baseball program, and this marks the actual beginning of a supervised program.

There have been five baseball coaches since the actual initiation of an organized program in 1955. They compiled a combined record of thirty-six wins and thirty-one losses, winning fifty-three per cent of the total number of games played.



The coach who served the longest reign was Mr. Jim Robison, serving five years in this capacity. His teams won nineteen, or more than fifty per cent, of the thirty-six victories that were recorded.

## SUMMARY

The St. George Rural High School District Number Six was formed August 1, 1919, and received its first students September 8, 1919. During the school's early history, the school board leased the upper floor and basement of the grade school building. In 1923, the high school constructed a gymnasium onto the existing grade school building. However, this proved inadequate, and in 1951 the present gymnasium was added to the school plant.

The athletic program at St. George has been supported in a number of ways--gate receipts, funds from the school budget and, in the school's early history, donations from local merchants, cake sales, and carnivals carried much of the burden for financing the athletic program.

At the time of writing, St. George has had twenty-eight head coaches, including three women, in the five sports in which it has competed. In many instances in the school's history, the principal also served as basketball coach to relieve the financial pressure on the school district.

During the last twenty years there has been a rapid turnover of coaches. This could possibly be attributed to low pay, a heavy teaching load, and the inability of the school board to finance athletics to the point of sponsoring a strong program. The first coaches were professional teachers who assumed an active interest in athletics and gave their time to the betterment of athletics at St. George High School.

Even though the enrollment of the school has increased steadily over the years, total enrollment has never exceeded 100

students. Many of these students came from farms and were limited in the amount of time that they could spend participating in athletics.

St. George Rural High School has been a member of three leagues in its forty-seven years of existence. In the Pottawatomie County Little Five, eventually the Little Six (1937-38 through 1954-55), the school participated in boys and girls basketball. Softball, baseball, and track teams were also formed, but league standings in these three sports were not reported. When the Kaw Valley League was formed, St. George participated in two sports--basketball and track. At the time of writing, St. George has been a member of the Mid East League in football, and track since 1963-64. Baseball was played independently, as most schools in the Mid East League did not support baseball teams.

Limited coverage of the school's athletic events was provided by the St. George News from 1919-20 through 1941-42. In later years, the Manhattan Mercury provided excellent coverage, with the exception of the latter 1950's when athletics were at a low ebb for a number of years at St. George, and scores were not reported. These conditions, plus the fact that annuals were published inconsistently during the 1920's, 30's, and 40's made it impossible for the writer to present scores for each event. Actually, from 1922-23 to 1937-38, there were no annuals printed. Another contributing factor was that many records were destroyed several years ago in a school clean-up by a former custodian, who did not realize their importance.

League championships have been won by St. George as follows:

<u>Pottawatomie County</u>	<u>Kaw Valley</u>	<u>Mid East</u>
Basketball (Boys) - 1	Basketball - none	Football - none
Basketball (Girls) - 5	Track - none	Basketball - none
		Track - none

No state championships have been recorded by the St. George team. They have gone to four regional basketball tournaments, finishing second twice. In district tournament play, the teams recorded one first place, five seconds, one third, and one fourth place finish.

Mr. E. W. Winkler and Mr. Pfenninger, the first coaches at St. George Rural High received approximately \$2400 per year. Head coaches salaries for the school year 1965-66 averaged \$4700. Salaries for that year were based on a single salary schedule.

Effective July 1, 1966, the school became an attendance center of Unified School District 323. The history of a self-administered athletic program at St. George Rural High School will cease to exist. The school is now identified as St. George High School, Attendance Center, Unified District 323. Decisions concerning the athletic program at St. George--financing of the program and setting up salary schedules for coaches--will rest with the school board of the unified district.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the following for their help in obtaining much of the material contained in the report: Mr. Lee A. Scott, former principal and coach, and Mrs. Scott; Mr. Delmar Hoffman, former school board member; Miss Ida Summers, former teacher; Mr. C. J. Welsant, former principal and coach; Mr. Frank Warren, former coach; and Mr. Jim Robison, present head basketball coach.

Yearbooks not available in the school's library were loaned to the writer by Mrs. Herrol and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wilson.

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THE HISTORY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AT  
ST. GEORGE RURAL HIGH SCHOOL, ST. GEORGE, KANSAS

by

Larry M. Wilkerson

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AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Physical Education

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Manhattan, Kansas

1966

The main purpose of this study was to provide a record of interscholastic athletics at St. George Rural High School, St. George, Kansas. It was also the intention of the writer to provide a brief history of the school and a brief history of each of the head coaches and their records after accepting their respective coaching positions at St. George.

The results of this investigation may be used as reference materials by the faculty, administrators, past and present coaches, board of education, and patrons of the school and community.

Material for this study was secured from different sources. Some of the material was obtained from school yearbooks and newspapers. Personal interviews with former and present coaches, former administrators, and players of St. George High School provided additional material.

The St. George Rural High School District was formed August 1, 1919. During its first two years of operation, athletics were not a part of the school program. Beginning in 1921-22, athletics were added, and the school has actively participated in interschool competition the last forty-five years.

St. George has been a member of three leagues at the time of writing. In the Pottawatomie County Little Six League (1937 through 1955), the school participated in boys and girls basketball. The Kaw Valley League was formed in 1957-58, but was dissolved at the end of one year. Participation in the Kaw Valley League was limited to basketball and track. At the time of writing, St. George has been a member of the Mid East League since its formation in 1962-63. This league consists of eight

members, including: Silver Lake, St. Marys, Rossville, Alta Vista, Alma, Eskridge, Onaga, and St. George. At present, football, basketball, and track are the interscholastic sports that are offered at St. George.

League championships have been won by St. George as follows:

Pottawatomie County Little Six

(1937-1955)

Boys Basketball -- 1 -- 1951

Girls Basketball -- 4 -- 1950, 1951, 1953,  
and 1954

St. George has never won a championship during their association with either the Kaw Valley or Mid East League.

This study indicated that the school has had ten head football coaches, twenty head basketball coaches (including three women), three head track coaches, one head wrestling coach, and five head baseball coaches.

The first coaches were professional teachers with an active interest in athletics. During the 1920's, 1930's, and 1940's, the principal of the high school served as the coach in most instances. It was not until the middle 1950's that professionally trained coaches were hired by the school board.

The present coaches' salaries are not based on a school salary schedule. The board of education reserves the right to hire any coach by bargaining for their services. However, coaches have the opportunity to drive a school bus route, for additional compensation.

Effective July 1, 1966, St. George Rural High School became an attendance Center in Unified School District 323. The history of a self-administered athletic program at St. George will cease to exist. Decisions concerning the athletic program at St. George--financing of the program and setting up salary schedules for coaches--will rest with the board of the unified district.